

I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces without prejudice all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:

a base configured to provide vertical support to objects;

a pair of side walls projecting above the base;

a pair of opposing walls projecting above the base, each of the opposing walls presenting an exterior surface and having a two curvilinear receptacles ~~receptacle~~ defined within the exterior surface, each of the opposing walls including a ~~substantially horizontal~~ an upper edge, and ~~at least one~~ each of said opposing walls having two grooves and two pairs of notches provided in the ~~substantially horizontal~~ upper edge; and

two single-piece support members, each a single-piece support member having two inwardly-turned ends which pivot within corresponding receptacles of the opposing walls so that each single-piece support member spans across the opposing walls, the single-piece support ~~member~~ members extending beyond the exterior surfaces of the opposing walls,

and each of the two inwardly-turned ends being pivotally mounted within the receptacles to cause the corresponding single-piece support member to be adjustable between outer, middle, and inner positions,

the grooves of the opposing walls being disposed at outer portions of the upper edges thereof to support the single-piece support members in the outer position at a first height, a first pair of notches of the opposing walls being disposed respectively inward of said grooves to support the single-piece support members in the middle position at the first height, a second pair of notches of the opposing walls being disposed respectively inward of said second pair of notches to support the single-piece support members in the inner position at a second height lower than the first height, said second pair of notches extending deeper into the opposing side walls than said first pair of notches, each opposing wall upper edge extending vertically upward between the second pair of notches.

18. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein at least one of said opposing walls is configured to retain the objects vertically supported on the base.

19. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein at least one of said opposing walls is configured to provide lateral support to the objects vertically supported on said base.

20. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein ~~one of the at least two~~ first pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive the support ~~member~~ members to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein ~~a second one of the at least two~~ the second pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive the support ~~member~~ members to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

21. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 20, wherein ~~one of the at least two~~ first pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the ~~second one of the at least two~~ second pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members at a second support member height above the

base, wherein the first support member height is ~~different~~ higher than the second support member height.

22. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 21, wherein ~~the one of the at least two~~ each of the first pair of notches has a first depth, and wherein ~~the second one of the at least two~~ each of the second pair of notches has a second depth, wherein the first depth is ~~different~~ shallower than the second depth.

23. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls defines a pair of peanut-shaped receptacles ~~receptacle~~ for effecting pivotal mounting of the support ~~member~~ members to the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls.

24. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 23, wherein each of the support member inwardly-turned ends is disposed in a corresponding one of the receptacles provided in the exterior surface of each of the walls, the inwardly-turned ends being moveable within the receptacles.

25. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 24, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one

of the inwardly-turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

26. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 25, wherein each of the receptacles comprises a downwardly-curved ~~kidney~~ peanut-shaped slot having an upwardly extending middle portion ~~a maximum vertical height larger than twice a diameter of the corresponding inwardly-turned end.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 17 25, wherein each of the receptacles is substantially circular.

28. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the ~~substantially horizontal~~ upper edge of each opposing wall includes a first upper edge portion having a first edge height above the base, and a second upper edge portion having a second edge height above the base, wherein the first and second edge heights are defined by the first and second upper edge portions, respectively.

29. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 28, wherein ~~one of the at least two~~ first pair of notches in

each opposing wall is configured to receive the support ~~member~~ members to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein ~~a second one of the at least two~~ the second pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive the support ~~member~~ members to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

30. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 29, wherein ~~one of the at least two~~ first pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members at a first support member height above the base, and wherein the ~~second one of the at least two~~ second pair of notches in each opposing wall is configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is ~~different~~ higher than the second support member height.

31. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 30, wherein ~~the one of the at least two~~ each of the first pair of notches has a first depth, and wherein ~~the second one of the at least two~~ each of the second pair of notches has a second

depth, wherein the first depth is ~~different~~ shallower than the second depth.

32. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 31, wherein the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls defines a pair of peanut-shaped receptacles ~~receptacle~~ for effecting pivotal mounting of the support ~~member~~ members to the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls.

33. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the support member includes a first inwardly-turned end and a second inwardly-turned end and, wherein each of the first inwardly-turned end and the second inwardly-turned end are disposed in a corresponding one of the receptacles provided in the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls, the inwardly-turned ends being moveable within the receptacles.

34. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 33, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly-turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

35. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 34, wherein each of the receptacles comprises a downwardly-curved ~~kidney~~ peanut-shaped slot having an upwardly extending middle portion ~~a maximum vertical height larger than twice a diameter of the corresponding inwardly turned end.~~

36. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 17 34, wherein each of the receptacles is substantially circular with a bump in a lower portion thereof.

37. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:

a base configured to provide vertical support to objects;

a pair of sidewalls;

a pair of opposing walls projecting above the base, each of the opposing walls presenting an exterior surface defining two receptacles therein, each a receptacle comprising a downwardly-curved ~~kidney~~ peanut-shaped slot having (i) a curved, concave-shaped top portion, and (ii) a bottom portion which has a middle section extending vertically above adjacent left and right side sections, ~~at least one~~ each of the opposing walls including:

an upper edge; and

at least two grooves and at least four notches provided in the upper edge, two of the at least four notches extending deeper into the opposing wall than the remaining notches;

two support members, each a support member being
pivotally mounted within ~~the~~ a receptacle of each of the opposing
walls to facilitate pivotal movement of ~~the~~ said each support
member relative to ~~each of~~ the opposing walls;

wherein ~~the~~ each support member is configured to rest
within each of the grooves and notches for effecting retention of
~~the~~ said each support member at three different support member rest
positions, one of said three different support member rest
positions being lower than the other two support member rest
positions in the notches.

38. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in
Claim 37, wherein ~~one of the at least~~ two notches on each opposing
wall are ~~is~~ configured to receive the corresponding support member
to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first
stacking height above the base, and wherein ~~a second one of the at~~
~~least~~ two other notches on each opposing wall are ~~is~~ configured to
receive the corresponding support member to facilitate support of
the second identical container at a second stacking height above
the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the
second stacking height.

39. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in
Claim 38, wherein ~~one of the at least~~ two notches on each opposing

wall are ~~is~~ configured to receive and retain the corresponding support member at a first support member height above the base, and wherein ~~a second one of the at least two~~ other notches on each opposing wall are ~~is~~ configured to receive and retain the corresponding support member at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is ~~different~~ higher than the second support member height.

40. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 39, wherein ~~the one of the at least~~ each of the two notches on each opposing wall has a first notch depth, and wherein ~~the second one of the at least~~ each of the other two notches has a second notch depth, wherein the first notch depth is ~~different~~ shallower than the second notch depth.

41. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 40, wherein the exterior surface of each of the ~~walls defines a receptacle for effecting~~ receptacles is configured to provide pivotal mounting of the corresponding support member to the exterior ~~[['s]]~~ surface of each of the opposing walls.

42. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 41, wherein ~~the~~ each support member includes a single-piece, ~~constant-diameter,~~ C-shaped bar having two inwardly-turned ends

and, wherein each of the inwardly-turned ends is disposed in a corresponding one of the receptacles provided in the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls, the inwardly-turned ends being moveable within the receptacles.

43. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in Claim 42, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly-turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the corresponding support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

44. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:

a base configured to provide vertical support to objects;

a pair of side walls;

a pair of opposing walls projecting above the base, each of the opposing walls presenting an exterior surface defining a two downwardly-curved, ~~kidney~~ peanut-shaped ~~receptacle~~ curvilinear receptacles ~~having a maximum horizontal width between opposing edges of the receptacle, and at least one~~ each of the opposing walls including:

an upper edge; and

at least two grooves and four notches provided in the upper edge, an inner two of said notches extending deeper into the opposing wall than an outer two of said notches, said each

opposing wall extending vertically upward in between the inner two of said notches;

two support members, each a support member being
pivotally mounted within ~~the receptacle of each of the~~ receptacles
of opposing walls to facilitate pivotal movement of the said each
support member relative to each of the opposing walls, said
support member having a diameter that is less than one half of the
maximum horizontal width of said receptacle;

wherein ~~the~~ each support member is configured to rest
within ~~each of the~~ pairs of grooves and notches of the opposing
walls for effecting retention of ~~the~~ said each support member at
three different support member rest positions, one of said support
member rest positions being lower than the other support member
rest positions in the notches.

45. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in
claim 44, wherein ~~one of the at least~~ inner two notches is of each
opposing wall are configured to receive the support ~~member~~ members
to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first
stacking height above the base, and wherein ~~a second one of the at~~
~~least~~ the outer two notches is of each opposing wall are configured
to receive the support ~~member~~ members to facilitate support of the
second identical container at a second stacking height above the

base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

46. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 45, wherein ~~one of the at least~~ inner two notches ~~is of each~~ opposing wall are configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members at a first support member height above the base, and wherein ~~a second one of the at least~~ the outer two notches ~~is of~~ each opposing wall are configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is ~~different~~ lower than the second support member height.

47. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 46, wherein the ~~one of the at least~~ inner two notches ~~of each~~ opposing wall ~~has~~ have a first notch depth, and wherein the ~~second one of the at least~~ the outer two notches ~~of each opposing wall~~ ~~has~~ have a second notch depth, wherein the first notch depth is different than the second notch depth.

48. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 47, wherein the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls defines ~~the receptacle~~ two receptacles for effecting pivotal

mounting of the support ~~member~~ members to the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls.

49. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 48, wherein each said support member comprises a single-piece, ~~constant-diameter~~, C-shaped bar having two inwardly-turned ends, and wherein each of the inwardly-turned ends is disposed in a corresponding one of the receptacles provided in the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls, the inwardly-turned ends being moveable within the receptacles.

50. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 49, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly-turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the corresponding support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

51. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:
a base configured to provide vertical support to
objects;

a pair of side walls extending above the base;

a pair of opposing walls projecting above the base,
each of the opposing walls presenting an exterior surface, ~~and~~
~~at least one~~ each of the opposing walls including:

~~a first sidewall portion configured to retain the objects vertically supported on the base, the first sidewall portion defining a first an upper edge having (i) an outer pair of grooves, (ii) an outer pair of notches, and (iii) an inner pair of notches, the inner pair of notches extending deeper into the upper edge than the outer pair of notches, each opposing wall also comprising two peanut-shaped receptacles in the exterior surface thereof a first notch and a second notch provided therein; and~~

~~————— a second sidewall portion configured to retain the objects vertically supported on the base, the second sidewall portion defining a second upper edge and including a third notch provided therein;~~

~~————— wherein the first sidewall portion is disposed between the first notch and the second notch, wherein the second sidewall portion is disposed between the second notch and the third notch, wherein the first and second upper edges are disposed in substantially the same horizontal plane, and wherein the third notch has a notch depth which is greater than the notch depth of either the first notch or the second notch; and~~

~~a two support members, each support member being pivotally mounted to the corresponding receptacles on the exterior surface surfaces of each of the opposing walls to~~

facilitate pivotal movement of the corresponding support member relative to ~~each of~~ the corresponding opposing wall walls;

wherein ~~the~~ each support member is configured to register within ~~each of the~~ corresponding pairs of notches for effecting retention of the support member at support member rest positions in the notches, wherein one support member rest position is below the other support member rest positions.

Claims 52-53 (Cancelled)

54. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 51 ~~53~~, wherein ~~one of the second and third~~ the outer pair of notches in the opposing walls are ~~is~~ configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein ~~a second one of the second and third~~ the inner pair of notches in the opposing walls are ~~is~~ configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is ~~different~~ higher than the second stacking height.

55. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 54, wherein ~~one of the second and third~~ the outer pair of notches in the opposing walls are ~~is~~ configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members at a first support member height above the base, and wherein ~~the second one of the second and third~~ the inner pair of notches in the opposing walls are ~~is~~ configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is ~~different~~ higher than the second support member height.

56. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 55, wherein the ~~first and second~~ outer pair of notches and the outer pair of grooves have substantially the same notch depth.

57. (Currently Amended) The ~~retainer~~ container as claimed in claim 56, wherein the support ~~member is~~ members are configured to vertically support the base of the second identical container when the support ~~member is~~ members are received and retained by either ~~of the second and third~~ outer pair of notches or the inner pair of notches.

58. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 57, wherein the exterior surface of each of the opposing walls defines a receptacle for effecting pivotal mounting of the

support member to the exterior ~~[['s]]~~ surface of each of the opposing walls.

59. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 58, wherein ~~the~~ each support member is C-shaped with two inwardly turned ends.

60. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 59, wherein each of the receptacles receives a respective one of the inwardly turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of the corresponding support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

61. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 51, wherein an entire length of each of the ~~first and second~~ upper edges of the side walls is substantially horizontal.

Claims 62-70. (Cancelled)

71. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:
a base configured to provide vertical support to
objects;

a pair of end walls, each having a groove along an
upper portion thereof;

a first retainer means;

a second retainer means being spaced apart and opposing the first retainer means;

wherein each of the first and second retainer means projects above the base and has an exterior surface, and wherein ~~at least one~~ each of the first and second retainer means includes:

~~a first sidewall portion configured to retain the objects vertically supported on the base, the first sidewall portion defining an outer pair of notches and an inner pair of notches, the inner pair of notches extending deeper into the first sidewall portion than the outer pair of notches a first upper edge disposed between a first notch and a second notch; and~~

~~a second sidewall portion disposed between the inner pair of notches and extending upward between the inner pair of notches configured to retain the objects vertically supported on the base, the second sidewall portion defining a second upper edge disposed between the second notch and a third notch;~~

~~wherein the first upper edge is substantially coplanar with the second upper edge, and wherein the third notch has a greater notch depth than either of the first notch or the second notch;~~

a ~~kidney~~ pair of peanut-shaped openings opening disposed in the exterior surfaces of each of the first sidewall

~~portions lateral support means~~, each ~~kidney~~ peanut-shaped opening having a concave-shaped upper portion and a convex-shaped lower portion, the convex-shaped lower portion having a middle section which extends vertically above adjacent left and right side sections; and

~~a support member~~ two support members pivotally mounted in the ~~kidney~~ peanut-shaped openings disposed in the ~~exterior surfaces of the lateral support means~~ respective first sidewall portions to facilitate pivotal movement of the support ~~member~~ members relative to each of the respective first sidewall portions ~~lateral support means~~; and

wherein ~~the~~ each support member is configured to register within ~~each of the~~ respective grooves and pairs of notches for effecting retention of the support member at three different support member rest positions ~~in the first and second notches~~.

72. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 71, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to oppose the objects vertically supported by the base.

73. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 72, wherein each of the first and second sidewall

portions is configured to provide lateral support to the objects vertically supported by the base.

74. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 73, wherein ~~one of the second and third~~ the inner pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base, and wherein ~~a second one of the second and third~~ the outer pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members to facilitate support of the second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

75. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 74, wherein ~~one of the second and third~~ the inner pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members at a first support member height above the base, and wherein ~~the second one of the second and third~~ the outer pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is different than the second support member height.

76. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 75, wherein the ~~first and second notches have~~ each of the inner pair of notches has substantially the same notch depth.

77. (Currently Amended) The ~~retainer~~ container as claimed in claim 76, wherein the support ~~member is~~ members are configured to vertically support the base of the second identical container when the support ~~member is~~ members are received and retained by either ~~of the second and third~~ the inner pair of notches or the outer pair of notches.

Claim 78. (Cancelled)

79. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim ~~77~~ 78, wherein ~~the~~ each support member is C-shaped with two inwardly turned ends.

80. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 79, wherein each of the ~~receptacles~~ peanut-shaped openings receives a respective one of the inwardly turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of ~~the~~ each support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

Claim 81. (Cancelled)

82. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 80 ~~81~~, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to oppose the objects vertically supported by the base.

83. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 82, wherein each of the first and second sidewall portions is configured to provide lateral support to the objects vertically supported by the base.

84. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 83, wherein ~~one of the second and third~~ the inner pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members to facilitate support of a second identical container at a first stacking height above the base; and wherein ~~a second one of the second and third~~ the outer pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members to facilitate support of a second identical container at a second stacking height above the base, wherein the first stacking height is different than the second stacking height.

85. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 84, wherein ~~one of the second and third~~ the inner pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members at a first support member height above the base, and wherein ~~the second one of the second and third~~ the outer pair of notches is configured to receive and retain the support ~~member~~ members at a second support member height above the base, wherein the first support member height is different than the second support member height.

86. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 85, wherein ~~the one of the first and second notches~~ have each notch of the inner pair of notches has substantially the same notch depth.

87. (Currently Amended) The ~~retainer~~ container as claimed in claim 86, wherein the support ~~member is~~ members are configured to vertically support the base of the second identical container when the support ~~member is~~ members are received and retained by either ~~of the second and third~~ the inner pair of notches or the outer pair of notches.

Claim 88. (Cancelled)

89. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 87 ~~88~~, wherein each support member comprises a C-shaped bar with two inwardly turned ends.

90. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 89, wherein each of the ~~receptacles~~ peanut-shaped openings receives a respective one of the inwardly turned ends to facilitate pivotal movement of ~~the~~ each support member about a pivot axis which is moveable relative to the container.

Claim 91. (Cancelled)